

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 02556 181824Z
ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2556
EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XF, UNSC, PBOR, PEPR, IS, LE
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN - PROPOSED UNSC ACTION ON
MIDDLE EAST

REF: (A) STATE 069649 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 67498

1. I SAW KING HUSSEIN MARCH 18 AT MY REQUEST TO CONVEY
U.S. REQUEST FOR JORDAN'S SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORTS TO
STABILIZE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND PARTICULARLY
SUPPORT FOR CONSIDERATION OF CREATION OF UN PEACE-
KEEPING FORCE TO RESOLVE PROBLEM AND ASSIST LEBANESE
GOVERNMENT IN RESTORING ORDER IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

2. IN ADDITION TO POINTS IN REFTEL A, I DREW ON GUIDANCE
IN PARA 3A AND 3B REFTEL B, DESCRIBING US OBJECTIVES AND
THE THREE ELEMENTS OF PROPOSED UNSC RESOLUTION. I ALSO
USED ARGUMENTATION IN PARA 8, REFTEL B, THAT
INTRODUCTION OF A UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION INTO
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SOUTHERN LEBANON APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY EFFECTIVE WAY TO
OBTAIN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND PREVENT ESCALATION OF
CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. I MENTIONED THAT SITUATION
IN UN IS FLUID AND DEVELOPING RAPIDLY AND THAT WE WERE
HOPEFUL A RESOLUTION COULD EMERGE WHICH COMBINED THE
THREE ELEMENTS DESCRIBED. I CONCLUDED BY RE-AFFIRMING
OUR INTEREST IN ANY HELP JORDAN COULD GIVE US IN THIS

REGARD.

3. KING HUSSEIN LISTENED CAREFULLY TO PRESENTATION AND THEN SAID THAT HE HAD URGED PRESIDENT ASAD IN PHONE CONVERSATION AT 1:30 A.M. LAST NIGHT TO ACCEPT THE COURSE I HAD DESCRIBED, I.E. THE IDEA OF A UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND INDICATED ANY HELP JORDAN COULD GIVE IN UN WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED.

4. KING SAID HE HAD A FEELING SOME POSITIVE MOVEMENT IS GOING FORWARD, BASED ON HIS RECENT CONTACTS, AND THAT CONSENSUS IN TREATING SOUTH LEBANON PROBLEM COULD PERHAPS HAVE POSITIVE SIDE EFFECT IN TERMS OF REBUILDING CONCERTED EFFORTS ON MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS. I SAID I HAD JUST SEEN SOVIET AMBASSADOR LEAVING PALACE AND WONDERED IF CONSENSUS INCLUDED SOVIETS; KING REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

5. KING'S ONLY OTHER COMMENT WAS INTERJECTION EARLY IN MY PRESENTATION THAT HE HAD HEARD ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF GUR ONLY TODAY THREATEN THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CONTINUE TO STRIKE AT ANY FURTHER RESISTANCE IN SOUTH LEBANON. KING SAID THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION AND POINTS TO NEED FOR URGENT ACTION TO RESTORE PEACE AND STABILITY.
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6. IN PARTING I ASKED WHO I COULD SEE TO FOLLOW UP ON UN SITUATION AS IT UNFOLDS. KING SAID ROYAL DIWAN CHIEF SHARAF WOULD BE TRAVELLING IN AREA TO DELIVER MESSAGE FROM KING TO VARIOUS ARAB RULERS, SO I SUGGESTED MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HASSAN IBRAHIM IN SHARAF'S ABSENCE. KING SAID THAT WOULD BE FINE BUT THAT I SHOULD ALSO FEEL FREE TO BRING MATTERS TO KING IF I FELT NECESSARY.

7. COMMENT: KING SEEMED GENUINELY WILLING TO HELP TO PROMOTE IDEA OF UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION AND INDEED HAS APPARENTLY ALREADY PLAYED HELPFUL ROLE WITH SYRIA.
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